

Governor's Message vetoing HB No. 166

I am filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Texas, House Bill No. 166, without my approval.

I am heartily in accord with some of the provisions of the bill which would tend to enable the good optometrists of Texas to render a better service to the public, but unfortunately Section 5 of this bill would amend Article 4563, so as to contain in paragraph (m) thereof, the following prohibitory clause, which, if practiced by a Licensee would be grounds for revoking his license:—"The said licensee advertises prices or, etc".

I consider honest advertising to be one of our great Democratic rights, guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Texas and the United States of America, and no legislation should be enacted which will attempt to take away those rights of free speech and free press.

Furthermore, optometry is a great profession, and great advancement and discoveries have been made in this science and profession during recent years, and no doubt other great discoveries will be made in the future. These great discoveries and improvements should be of much benefit to our citizens, and there should be no restrictions on advertising the facts, including the cost of the service and equipment.

Some of our greatest inventions and discoveries, by virtue of advertising, have been made available to our citizens at greatly reduced costs because advertising the merits of the products and the cost created greatly increased demand and thus permitted mass production at lower cost. Certainly our citizens, with impaired vision, are entitled to the latest and most improved glasses at the lowest possible cost consistent with the type of service rendered.

For these reasons I am filing House Bill No. 166 without my approval.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of State to be impressed hereon at Austin, this the 23rd day of July, A. D., 1941.

W. Lee O'Daniel
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

Wm. J. Lawson
Secretary of State